

Let me begin by telling you a story handed down to posterity by a teacher in the ghetto of Lodz.

A little boy, whose entire family had been deported, was dawdling in the street, talking loudly to himself. In one fist he clutched a handful of small stones.

First he dropped three small stones. They hit the ground with a faint sound, then two more, followed by another three. Then the little boy quickly closed his fist. In his lively eyes the shiny black pupils stopped racing for a moment. He said:

"Nine brothers like these stones we were once, all close together. Then came the first deportation and three of the brothers didn't return, two were shot at the barbed wire fence and three died of hunger. Can you guess how many brother-stones are still left in my hand?"

As all children do, this boy played games to help him understand the world around him. Only his world was a world of incomprehensible evil. Only his was the world of the Holocaust.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Holocaust was no accident of history. The systematic murder of the Jews did not happen by chance. Nor did the genocide of the Roma, the mass murder of disabled persons or the persecution and murder of homosexuals, dissidents and Jehovah's Witnesses.

It occurred because people willed it, planned it and carried it through. It occurred because people made choices which allowed it to happen. It occurred, not least, because people remained silent. As the 21st century dawns we must ask ourselves: Can we be sure that the societies we build on today do not house the very same mechanisms that made the Holocaust possible?

Dear friends, the answer is no. We cannot be sure. We have good reason to be fearful. Look around you. Today, well-organized Nazi groups form international networks where they help each other to recruit and train new members and learn how to exploit the weaknesses of democracies, how to use terror and frighten witnesses.

Nazis and revisionists make full and effective use of the new information technology to spread their lies, to sell white power music and to reach potential new members among young people in all parts of the world. Even today, Nazis march in our streets, persecute, assault and murder people because of their ethnic affiliation, sexual preferences or beliefs. The risk we face, is that anti-democratic forces continue to gain support. The danger lies in our failure to learn from history, in our failure to see the connections.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me use the words of a survivor, a well-known Swede, the late Professor Jerzy Eihorn, who passed away less than a week ago. At the Stockholm Forum on the Holocaust in January he said: "To remember the Holocaust is a fragile defence but still the best one against the development of Nazism in our countries—a reminder of Nazism's ruthless cruelty, a reminder that we must never lower our guard, never accept Nazism as a necessary evil within a democracy."

This was his message—a message for all of us. He wanted us to take it with us. Because then, he said: "our suffering has not been entirely in vain. Then we and all those that did not survive, will have contributed to a better world for coming generations." We have to take this message.

We must fight Nazism, racism, anti-semitism and xenophobia wherever and whenever they rear their ugly heads. We must fight them with the lessons of our past, but also with our visions for tomorrow. It will not be easy. But we have no other choice.

The future is not sealed by fate, no more than the bitter history of the past. It is our

actions today—the ones we take and the ones we fail to take—that will shape the future. It is you and I, all of us, united in determination to remember, that are the only guarantees we have against the recurrence of an evil past.

Ladies and Gentlemen, there is good reason to be fearful, but surely also to feel hope. People want to know, people want to discuss values and ideas, people want to take responsibility and learn from history.

This is the encouraging conclusion we draw from the national project initiated by the Swedish Government in 1997—Living History. The idea was to spread knowledge about the Holocaust to young people in Sweden, but also to generate an active dialogue between generations on values in general.

To support parents, teachers and students in this task we launched a number of projects. One of these was a book entitled *Tell ye your children*. The response to the project in general and the book in particular exceeded anything we could have dreamed of. In every second Swedish home with school-children you will find a copy of the book. It was not just sent there. It was ordered by the families who wanted to have a base for the important discussion on democratic and humanistic values. I became convinced that this positive experience was not unique to Sweden.

In January 1998, I wrote to President Clinton and Prime Minister Blair suggesting international cooperation in this field. Little did I then know that only one year later, nine countries—in a network known as the Task Force—would cooperate with such countries as the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Argentina and several others in liaison projects designed to remembrance, education and research about the Holocaust.

As the new millennium dawned, and the very first international high-level conference was held, it didn't deal with economics. Nor did it deal with security and stability.

It dealt with fundamental values, with democracy and human dignity, with how to confront the better memories of a horrifying past in order to help shape better policies for tomorrow's world. It was the end of silence and the beginning of a new millennium.

Next year we will meet in Stockholm again. In response to an initiative of the Nobel Laureate Eli Weisel, the Swedish Government will host an annual international conference—a Stockholm Forum on Conscience and Humanity.

We have to conduct ourselves to the question of Elie Wiesel: "Will our past become our children's future?"

We have to learn from the words of another man who has devoted his life to teach about the Holocaust in order to prevent future genocides—professor Yehuda Bauer from Israel and the Yad Vashem Institute. He said:

"I come from a people who gave the ten commandments to the world. Time has come to strengthen them by three additional ones, which we ought to adopt and commit ourselves to: thou shall not be a perpetrator; thou shall not be a victim; and thou shall never, but never, be a bystander."

Ladies and Gentlemen, today we are gathered to remember.

Remember, because to forget would be to betray those irreplaceable people who died and those who survived. It would be to betray the deeds of Raoul Wallenberg and all the others who stood up for human dignity and risked their own lives to save the lives of others.

Remember, because to forget would be to betray every single child who comes into this world.

Let us therefore remember a little boy in the ghetto of Lodz, and through him all the

others who were forced to endure the unthinkable.

Let us pick up the brother-stones, clasp them firmly in our hands, and realise how much we will need them on our journey through a new century.

Let us carry them with us as a constant reminder and a challenge to never again allow forces to grow that are capable of such evil.

Thank you.

#### COCOA BEACH 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DAVE WELDON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2000*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, seventy-five years ago this month a very special place in American history was founded. That special place is the town of Cocoa Beach, Florida.

We all know that America was created out of the spirit of frontierism. Bold men and women shook off the shackles of oppression and set forth to a new world of opportunity and adventure. Today we all know about Plymouth Rock and its significance in our nation's history.

America is still the land of frontier explorers and furthering the promise of freedom and adventure. I am proud to represent a town that has been the Plymouth Rock to the stars, Cocoa Beach.

Founded 75 years ago, what started out as a small, agrarian town enjoyed a pleasant, but sleepy existence. That solitude and quiet was interrupted with the introduction of the U.S. military's ballistic missile program after World War II.

Suddenly, Cocoa Beach became home for many rocket engineers, scientists and their families who came to Florida to help the United States win the Cold War. That work was only a small taste of the exciting future which was to come.

Soon the United States found that it was in our nation's military and economic national interests to have the capability to put people and objects into orbit. NASA was created and soon Cape Canaveral was selected to be the prime location for NASA's space launch activities. This resulted in Cocoa Beach's coming of age as a modern, thriving town on the cusp of a new age in human history.

Through Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Space Shuttle and International Space Station, Cocoa Beach has been there through it all. Its dynamic people striving to lead the next age of exploration into the new frontier.

Many feel that without frontiers and boundaries to push against, America stops being what America is all about. As long as we have cities like Cocoa Beach leading the charge into space, America's promise of freedom will continue into the stars.

#### JIM COLLINS: A HALF CENTURY OF JOURNALISM

**HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2000*

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Jim Collins and his 50 years in journalism.